

Point three



July 1995

The magazine of TOCH



Point three



The Magazine of Toc H

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. *To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.*
2. *To give personal service.*
3. *To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.*
4. *To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.*

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world, as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

Point three is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per annum. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

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Cover: Jemimah Pearce collects ducks from the River Cherwell.

Photo: Lucy Cole



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The Winners of the Toc H Poetry Competition

It is with considerable pleasure that we are able to announce the results of our first national poetry competition in this issue. Over 600 people entered the competition, which was part of the 80th birthday celebrations of Toc H. Jamie McKendrick, the well known Oxford based poet, chose the three winners and nine runners-up from a shortlist of over 100 poems.

The first prize goes to David Hart for his poem *Please Bring Some Socks*. Our congratulations go to David, of Kings Heath, Birmingham, whose poem was considered an outright winner. Second prize goes to Eva Okwonga of West Drayton, Middlesex, for her poem *Sitting on a bus at 4 o'clock*. The third winner is Alan Wells of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, for his poem *Compassion*.

The runners-up are George Marsh from Southsea, with *Blackbird*, Roger Harvey from Newcastle, with *Bougoulian Lalouche*, Michael Hatwell from Blackheath, London, with *To Wilhelm Karlovich Küchelbecker from his Political Accusers*, Heather Seddon from Chingford, London, with *Amo A Mi Madre - I Love My Mother*, Christopher North from Little Chalfont, Bucks, with *At Finestrat*, Valerie Smith from Harrogate, Yorkshire, with *Remembrance*, Sean Body from Salford, with *Letting Go*, Martyn Crucifix from North London, with *House, Snake, Tree*, and Katrina Crosbie from Edinburgh, with *Resurrection*.

The three prize-winning poems are published in this issue of the magazine and copies of the runner-up poems are available on request from Wendover.

Another important matter for communicating this month is that the editorial staff - Jenny and Ruth - are playing their part in the economy measures necessary for ensuring the survival of our Movement. This will include running the August and September issues together and cutting production costs considerably by designing the magazine and doing all the typesetting on our own computer. We all want Toc H to survive.

Ruth Boyd

Poetry Competition

Jamie McKendrick writes:

From an impressive range of poems submitted to the competition, there was some difficulty in establishing which would take the second and third prizes. I had no doubt that Please bring some socks should win. It is a wonderfully restrained and moving list of articles requested by Tyndale during his imprisonment, a list that weighs up a Hebrew dictionary against the need for socks.

Finally I decided to give the second prize to Sitting on a bus at 4 o'clock. The language of the poem is very plain as well as being heartfelt and imaginative. The third prize goes to Compassion. I found its ruthless wit appealing, and liked its inventive use of rhyme and the way the poem cleverly rounds on itself at the end.

Among the runners-up, I was sorry not to give a prize to Blackbird. I liked the unobtrusive way it used the sonnet form, its sustained emotional force and, especially, the fine ending.

Amo a mi madre was another strong contender, which continued to improve on rereading - with its well-observed details woven in and around the refrain. Among several poems dealing with the loss of a friend or relative, I thought Letting Go was the most successful. I admired its level questioning tone.

Resurrection combined an effective and recognisable speaking voice with witty and well-observed images. House, Snake, Tree - like Early by the same author - is an unusual poem, and stands out for its explorative syntax, its way of thinking around the lines, 'its knot and writhe', and its very effective ending.

Remembrance - among many poems about war - was simple, personal and effective. Bougoulian Lalouche is an ambitious poem which accumulates its details with some power, and real feeling for the condition of displacement. To Wilhelm Karlovich Kuckelbecker from his Political Accusers - another poem with a great name in the title - caustically and skillfully examines the collision of poetry and politics. At Finestrat registers with humour areas of confusion and communication between two cultures, English and Spanish.

Please bring some socks

Please bring some socks
and if they can be smuggled in
as well the pens
and the Hebrew Bible and the dictionary
and paper. If God in his wisdom take me
for honour's sake
that is his will but to die here
of cold in my very bones
fills me with dread. I am
like piss in a gutter
draining away
unless your graciousness
and courage save me. Smuggle in
for me the socks, my friend, Sir,
and if you will a thicker shirt
than I have here and a blanket.

David Hart

(After a letter by William Tyndale in the British Library)

Sitting on a bus at 4 o'clock

Here is one of my ancestors.
He is dressed by an anything suit, he is dark.
His torso is an elephant, his legs are shapes of buffaloes, his eyes
are like a tree's.
Once he was carved from flowing wood, but now
he has stuffed the rolled-up years of his life behind his backbone.
It curves stubbornly.
Now the sprawling sun simmers the vapours of his life and
they rise, like rumours.
His eyes are stored in their original envelopes;
A green-winged ocean brims there, still caressing.
He has seven lives, he has thirteen dreams.
His faces are storms, and hills ploughed by children,
He wears his wide-brimmed hat like a universe.
Once he dropped an apple, then he caught a hungry bird,
a kingfisher.
He ran from a war I will never fight over,
Clutching the warm handprint of his past.
Now he lets the light drip onto his shoe
Like acid, bleaching it white.
I hold his heart in my hand
It turns, softly.

Eva Okwongwa

Compassion

Indulge the old
Don't pity them:
Stunned cods' eyes
And turkey throats.
Some can't say good morning
Without notes.
Their power's imploded
To shrapnel on their skin:
Curious speckles
In the khaki and beige
Of age.
Muscles
With no muscle in.
And the less aged are
Sometimes hoarser still:
My neighbour now
Of forty-four,
Bay-window front
Asthma voice
That rips the eardrums
Like a saw.

'Still young,' he croaks
'Still very spry!'
Giving to his words
The lie
As he squeezes
Pounds of flesh into his Ford.

But can he envy me, I think
Or is compassion
(That feeling so much out
Of fashion) just as much
His aim?
Ah well - with dignity
I return indoors
In my zimmer frame.

Allan Wells

Life as a Toc H Long Term Volunteer

On 23 June, our very popular LTV, *Mike Rowlands*, flew out to Philadelphia as a Winant Clayton Volunteer. Shortly before he left the staff, *Ruth Boyd* spoke to Mike in Birmingham about his experience as a Toc H Long Term Volunteer.

My father was an engineer, my mother a cleaner and home-help in Wolverhampton. I never had any direction myself about what path to take in life and I don't believe that many people do when they are young. I have just returned from a weekend working on a Toc H Focal Point in Exeter and the Sunday was structured on a discussion programme about issues of conflict encountered by teenagers. Subjects included peer pressure, drugs, the role of the student, whether young people still feel they have role models, their place in society and whether they feel listened to. I believe that such discussions may well help people to have more insight into their own lives.



I left school at 16 and went straight to a hand-tool manufacturer - Britool. I had a year's training at Chubb Lock and went back to Britool to continue my apprenticeship. I had read a few articles on design and liked that idea. I went through a number of jobs during my five-year apprenticeship. I have an HNC and ONC in mechanical and electrical engineering. In all I worked in Engineering from the age of 16 to 28. It felt 'safe' to be treated as an equal among people who were much older than me. Getting up in the morning and going to work was not threatening.

My attitude to life changed four years ago when I went to Amsterdam and experienced an entirely different culture. My partner at the time was studying over there and I went to stay for two weeks - I found that there was life outside engineering! I look back and think that I had very little in my life

other than work at that time. I decided that life had to change - I could no longer entertain the idea of losing sleep at night because of my job.

I was dissatisfied for about 18 months and got a reputation as a bit of a rebel. Then, in October 1993, they announced that the factory was going to close. That was the kick that I needed. Even though I had the materialistic things, I didn't feel I was really challenged.

I left in March 1994, and in April went to see the Wolverhampton Voluntary Council. I wanted to learn something more about myself. I felt that there was more inside me that I wanted to find out about. I had had some experience with Mencap, and I am an assistant venture scout leader, and thought these experiences might be of use to WVC.

I was going to take 2 or 3 months off and wanted something to fill my time. The co-ordinator gave me two contacts in advocacy work, which involved working with people with learning difficulties or mental illness. I enrolled and I am now a fully trained advocate - not so much a conciliator, because there are no results. The people that I was working with had problems such as complaints against the police, or facing eviction. My role was to talk with them, and discuss various options.

Toc H in my life

Toc H came into my life through the project booklet - the photo on the front cover caught my eye. I asked what Toc H did, and was put in contact with Chris Williams, West Midlands and South Wales Chairman. She asked me twice whether I was a Christian. I thought it was going to be some quasi-religious cult. Chris told me about the position coming up for an LTV and I next got a phone call from Simon Cottingham. I pictured a man, aged 45/50, who would be middle/upper class and who would come to my door wearing a tweed jacket. I was nervous of this highly religious-sounding organisation. The allotted time came, the doorbell rang, I looked through my little spy-hole and saw this gent outside wearing a pair of ripped jeans, a sweatshirt, closely cropped hair and three days growth of beard! I opened the door and he came in and promptly kicked my ashtray over!

We then chatted for about four hours and Simon suggested that I should try a project. I did and thoroughly enjoyed it - I was made to feel instantly welcome. I struck up a friendship with an offender from Lancaster. I had never met an offender before. We strolled round Cannock Chase together and I found myself completely at ease. It was odd to be talking to a stranger about my father, who had died five years earlier, and he told me about his life and about his children growing up. He was in his late 20s and I instantly clicked with this guy.

I enjoyed his company and thoroughly enjoyed the whole week.

Meanwhile, I had been offered a couple more engineering jobs, with very high salaries, but I really didn't want them. I did more advocacy work, went on a CAMEO, went to a couple of Toc H meetings and was still in touch with Chris, Simon, Joy and Paul. Three months passed by and I decided to give it a go and become an LTV for a year.

It took me a while to decide that I had made the right move. I read a number of books and was profoundly moved by Bill Bains' chapter in *Out of a Hoploft*. It made me cry. I could also identify with what he said about being in a career where he felt he had to make a change and try something different. He had never formerly grasped the spiritual side of things and I felt a lot of empathy. For the first two months I struggled and felt that I was not going to last the year. I felt out of my depth. There was a constant doubt. I still find making that initial contact with people very hard. Setting up my first event was a major hurdle for me, even though it was just a simple case of bringing people together on Cannock Chase.

Toc H has given me more than I can repay

Looking back on my year, I strongly feel that Toc H has given me more than I can ever repay, and I will retain my links with the Movement. I feel more comfortable with myself now. I can say what I think. The people that I have been surrounded by and have worked with - staff and members - have always made me feel welcome. I now feel much more valued and happier with myself. I was very self-critical at the beginning.

The personal growth aspect was very difficult to latch onto at first. I had many challenging conversations with Simon and with other members of staff, members and volunteers. I felt that people were actually listening. When I am challenged now I don't take it personally. I feel that I can interact with people, that I can pitch conversations on the right level to get on with them. I am still self-critical about my work. I feel that things could have gone better and that I could have done more. There is still that element of self-doubt.

The most powerful learning experiences have been the ones where I have experienced pain; when things haven't gone as well as planned. I have more courage and strength to overcome difficulties. The old dread and fear has diminished and I am more confident. If somebody says something that I disagree with I can openly challenge them, rather than just agree in order to keep the peace. I think my previous fear was a fear of being disliked and a fear of upsetting the apple-cart. I can now express what I think. It has made me a more complete person. I still don't fully know

where I am going to be in four or five years, but I feel excited about that. I'm a great fatalist.

By the time this article is read, I will be in Philadelphia on a Winant Clayton scheme. I look back on my year with Toc H, at the people I have met and some of things they have achieved, and these are priceless experiences. Going to an Inner City area in Philadelphia, to help with 6-12 year old children from under-privileged backgrounds is something that I could not have imagined 12 months ago. It is a major challenge. It's frightening, but it's also the most exciting thing I will have ever done. I will be there for three months - two months working and the final three weeks I will be free to travel America. Which, again, is a daunting but exciting prospect. I go weak at the knees when I think about it. Toc H has given me this experience. Toc H has given me the insight, the knowledge, and the background that enabled me to be a suitable candidate.

Looking to the future

Whatever happens beyond September - I'm applying for a degree in social policy at Wolverhampton University - I'm going to look back on this year and on the experiences I have had, the people I have met, the highs and the lows, the American experience, the whole general learning experience. It is going to be something that I will never be able to put into words - I don't fully understand what has happened to me in the year. I still want to work with people and I know that there is an inner energy that is waiting to be shot forward.

Mike Rowlands

And Chris Williams adds....

We say a fond farewell to Mike Rowlands, although he assures us that it is only temporary. During his time with us he has been a valued member of the Cannock Chase Project Team - many of you will recall his article in the February issue of *Point three*, which was just one of the many events Mike organised on the Chase. Public relations has played a major part in Mike's work with us. This includes a successful series of school visits, where publicity boards were placed in each school for one week and then Mike went along to speak. He has also been involved in the District's follow-up programme and visited many branches which has given him a wider insight into our Movement..

We wish you joy Mike and say 'thanks' for the benefits you have brought us. *Bon Voyage* for now. See you in the autumn!

Chris Williams

Not For Our Comfort

What is Toc H? Oh dear, not that old chestnut again! It is the question we urgently want the public to ask and then, when it is asked, we panic because we feel we can never really answer it as well as we would wish, and do Toc H the credit it deserves.

I am not going to attempt to offer definitions - that's for another occasion - even though I always enjoy word games! The question I want to pose is this: when we make a statement that Toc H IS *This or That* or *The Other*, on what authority do we speak?

In other words, what or who is it who decides what Toc H is? Many of us who speak or write publicly about Toc H will say, with total confidence, Toc H is X or Y or Z, and our audience will believe us. In *Point three March*, Harry Brier related an episode when he was arguing with the members of his branch about the purpose of Toc H, and the issue was actually one about authority. The old questions - *What is Toc H?* and *Who says?*

There are a number of choices. One, beloved of our forebears in Toc H, but less popular now, is that '*Tubby said...*'. Some of the women in Toc H might equally have said, '*Alison McFie said...*'. This implies that the charismatic authority of the founder(s) is the bedrock of Toc H. It suggests that what Tubby, or 'Mac' said cannot be wrong and, therefore, these are ultimate definitions of Toc H. Accordingly, we can quote them with absolute assurance. Today, 80 years after the founding of Toc H, this is less frequently used as a reference point and, when Tubby is quoted, it is almost always on occasions where his views happen to reinforce our own conviction, rather than our own convictions flowing from his views (although I am sure that when Harry Brier did so it was an exception to that!). People seldom quote Tubby when his position would disagree with their views and aspirations for Toc H!

Toc H has never preached infallibility

But, in any event, while such views should still carry real weight, Toc H has never preached the infallibility of any human, including Tubby or Alison MacFie. Their views on the nature and purpose of Toc H should therefore be seen as a contributory ingredient, not an infallible dictate.

A second source, and one that my earlier existence



as a lawyer makes me want to look at instead, involves the formal definitions. I don't mean the Royal Charter - God forbid - with its ridiculous legal contortions. Anyone who believes that the Royal Charter encapsulates Toc H would be the sort of person who would say that *Romeo and Juliet* is all about pheromones! Rather, I would recommend the *Four Points of the Compass* and the *Main Resolution* and, more recently, the *Statement of Re-affirmation* and the 1989 *Focus for the Future*.

These are all formal statements about the nature of Toc H and its mission. But the snag here is twofold - one is that they are not the same - for example, the overtly Christocentric approach of the *Main Statement of Re-affirmation* is different again - even though all embody much common ground. The other snag is that, even taking only one of these, they are open to wide varieties of interpretation. The document just won't do. In any event, to argue that it will is to suggest that a certain Central Executive or Central Council achieved infallibility! Wow!

The cumulative weight of our inheritance

Another source is the cumulative weight of our inheritance, both written and oral. This covers both the writings of eminent Toc H members, staff and lay, women and men, and also the accumulation and handing on of anecdote and myth. These are indeed important ingredients and I am aware that I derive my views on the nature of Toc H much more from the likes of Alec Churcher and Herbert Leggate than I ever did from either Tubby himself, or from formal definitions. They taught me Toc H and I find myself often reiterating their teaching... and probably giving more emphasis to the parts I agree with. But they, too, were not infallible!

A fourth choice is what the theologians would call 'direct revelation'. What is my own experience of Toc H, and what does that tell me about what it is, or should become? It is, after all, a living organic movement, and can never depend entirely on inherited direction or insight, but must rather be constantly renewed and reinterpreted for today's world. The inspiration and insights of today's members are a vital ingredient, every bit as much as the lessons and directions of history.

In listing these four sources of direction, I am aware that I parallel traditional arguments about the nature of Christianity. For Tubby substitute Jesus, for formal definitions substitute creeds, for eminent Toc H members substitute the traditional teachings of the Church, and for direct revelation - well - direct revelation. God can and does speak directly to individuals about what he wants, and that includes all of life, the Church and Toc H included.

People will, very naturally, tend to lean more in one direction or another, but none of these should be excluded or ignored. In fact, one can say with confidence that anyone who bases his or her views, or definitions, on one only of these sources is likely to develop a very blinkered and unreal view of Toc H. Those who stand totally on the original vision of Tubby, and nothing else, are as lopsided as those who ignore history and assume the whole thing is up for grabs on the basis of the latest democratic whim, policy statement or their own most recent insight! Equally lopsided is the parochial view, to which Harry Brier refers, that what happens in the branch IS all there is to say about Toc H. These are all blinkered extremes. We need instead to be a body of people who take account of all the wisdom, insights and experiences of this richly endowed Movement and, by doing so, develop a mature understanding of it. All have validity - none have infallibility!

A Mature Understanding of Toc H

The most difficult area is that of 'direct revelation'. It is difficult to gauge whether inspiration or insight arises from genuine revelation or whether, instead, the person advocating change (or no change) is in fact doing his or her utmost to make Toc H more comfortable for themselves! Some of the debates about the Christian nature of Toc H occasionally sound like that - whether it is the evangelical Christian saying Toc H 'should be more evangelical' or the atheist suggesting that Toc H 'should be less Christocentric' - when both have the hidden agenda that it might make their place in Toc H more comfortable! They forget that sometimes things are meant to be uncomfortable, and that if Toc H was the lowest common denominator of members' comfort, it would be pretty palid and pathetic.

Whave to be careful before dismissing another's personal views as invalid - although they must stand comparison with the received wisdom from other sources. There is, though, a responsibility on each of us, when involved in debate that may affect the future of Toc H, to search our souls and ask if what we are advocating is really the way for Toc H - a way that will ensure that it both lives and remains truly Toc H - or whether it is just a way that we personally would find more comfortable or comforting. If it is the latter, it will probably not be the former!

John Mitchell

Projects in the Oxford Area

Back 'in the field' as a Development Officer, several of John Mitchell's recent projects have been water based:

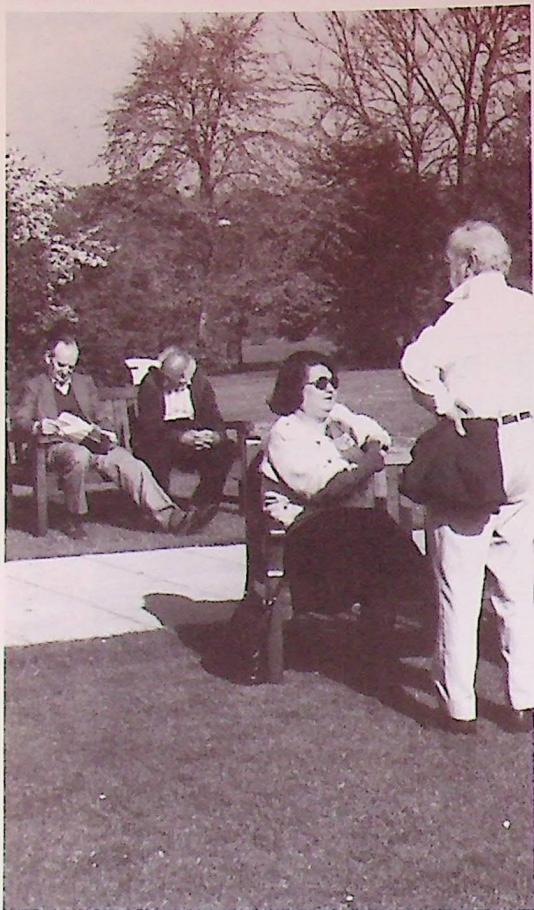


Toc H project volunteers building fishponds at Rivermead Rehabilitation Centre, Oxford. One pond was built at a height of two feet so that patients in wheelchairs can help maintain it. The volunteers also built paths which are suitable for wheelchairs.



Local Toc H volunteers and scouts shepherd the 1000 ducks down the River Cherwell in Oxford in the Toc H Duck Race. Over £300 was raised to fund local projects.

The 1995 Friendship Circle



The editor joined Friendship Circle members, the guest speaker, The Revd David Mayhew, National Friendship Circle Development Officer David Hill, Head of Development Tim Day, Honorary Treasurer, Gerry Conibeer and Friendship Circle Chairman John Cox on May 4th. She took part in an *Any Questions* Panel, together with Fundraiser Ian Pearce, John Cox and Gerry Conibeer and also took the photos for this article.

Gerry Conibeer reports:
Our thanks must go to Methods Development Officer John Biggerstaff for all his hard work in organising the conference. Unfortunately John was unable

to participate in the final event because of illness.

A total of forty-one people attended the Conference, which was opened by John Cox.

DO Karen Thomson gave a talk and slide show about her recent visit to Bangladesh, mainly concentrating on the *Schools Under the Sky* project in Sylet. Karen had many stories and anecdotes to tell, which brought the project alive for the audience, particularly the taped accompaniment - which enabled us to hear the voices of children learning their lessons.

Tim Day talked about develop-

ment work in Toc H and described the strange manner in which he was introduced to the Movement twenty years ago. He dwelt on some of the wide range of experiences and work in Toc H that he had been involved in since. He emphasised the Movement's ethos in creating friendships and taking an interest in other people, encouraging people to get involved, to gain enthusiasm and commitment - which all



Network conference



adds up to improving their attitude to life.

Heather Ranasinghe, Friendship Circle Development Officer in Bedfordshire, then gave a beautifully illustrated talk about her recent visit to Sri Lanka, which included some interesting history and details about the island's culture.

After dinner there was a tour of the scenery and views of northern Derbyshire.

Next morning, the popular Revd David Mayhew gave a spirited talk about our expectations and experience of the clergy, church, and religion in general. Participants were

asked to give good and bad examples of their experiences, and many concluded that clergymen can be unnecessarily arrogant - which is particularly inappropriate and insensitive in today's world.

Gathering in the lost and needy

David emphasised that the role of the priest was to gather in the lost and needy and he described the priest's function as being more appropriately that of a friend who could listen to our woes and draw on God's resources for us. He emphasised that the good priest 'walks at our pace'.

There then followed a question and answer session, followed by a discussion about the value of members from different branches meeting to exchange views, ideas and friendship.

A farewell to David Hill

Thanks were expressed to David Hill, who retires from the staff of Toc H at the end of July from his staff position as the main national Development Officer for Friendship Circles.

The Conference concluded with Sunday lunch. The weather was perfect the entire time and people seemed to enjoy both the surroundings and the company.

Readers' Letters

Listening

'Thank you for letting me talk to you, no-one wants to listen to me'.

So said woman A to woman B in the supermarket. Woman A, poorly clad, had poured out all her problems of poverty, drink, family rejection, disinterested authorities.... In the end woman B had to bring the flow to a stop. Then came the surprise/shock for woman B when the words 'thank you for letting me talk...' were spoken.

The crowds were hurrying on their way to the great City and were quite determined nothing was going to stop them, especially the persistent calling of a blind beggar. But one person in that crowd listened, heard the call and stopped, and the crowd stopped with him. Then he called the beggar to him and asked him a question, 'What do you want me to do for you'? We all know the outcome; the beggar's sight was restored. Yes, the name of the man who listened, stopped and healed, was Jesus. Jesus handed down this gift to all those who were prepared to carry on his work for him, and that is what very many in Toc H are doing today in a vast variety of ways. But let us not also forget the necessity of stopping and listening. Talkers are many - listeners are few. Can we all in Toc H help to redress this balance?

Winnie Nelson

Oxford

Fans of Ruby Relf

I was delighted to see in February's *Point three* that Ruby Relf has been presented with a long service award. Congratulations to her and our very best wishes.

... Lovely memories of our visit to Talbot House and of all her visits to Reigate and Merstham, also meeting her at Swanwick when I was a Central Councillor. Both my husband and I have been members for many years, but, sadly now, the branches around us are just memories and only three of us are left in Reigate Branch - all in our 80s - so we keep in touch by telephone. Reg and I send greetings to any members who remember us.

Phyll Hall

Reigate

Thank you to Toc H S. Africa

We would like to thank all the Toc H members we met in Cape Town, Fish Hoek, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg and Kimberley for the welcome you gave us. It was a marvellous holiday and lovely to go to a strange new world and find friends there.

Barbara and Ken Prideaux-Brunne

Amersham

Points Arising from the NFU CAMEO

As my husband once worked for Toc H, and I always enjoy reading *Point three*, perhaps I might be allowed to air some points which arise from Mary James' NFU CAMEO.

First one must welcome the fact that the NFU is at last engaging in discussion with those of different views, rather than dismissing them as 'ignorant'. Alas, the lorries rolling towards the ports are only the visible sign of an industry over which decent farmers seem to have lost control.

Millions of broiler chickens, battery hens, turkeys geese and ducks are kept packed together in sheds - kept 'healthy' by the routine administration of antibiotics in the feed. BSE, or mad cow disease, is thought to have originated by feeding rendered down animal waste (sheep) to vegetarian cattle - against all morality and the laws of nature. On the horizon looms the threat of genetic engineering. As selective breeding has so far produced broiler chickens which grow at a rate which their skeletons and cardio-vascular systems cannot sustain, leading to much suffering, the 'gross' tampering with life forms should concern all those of a religious persuasion. Surely man was not meant to cross one species with another to produce transgenic animals, eg chickens or pigs with a cow's growth genes.

What has happened to our morality?

Playing God can only lead to greatly increased suffering for the animals and, ultimately, contrary to religious law, a diminished respect for life itself. Yes, indeed, there is a great deal to discuss.

Rosemary Marshall,

Bucks Area Contact, Compassion in World Farming

Southern Region's Regional Project Branch

Cuddesdon House was the venue for the inaugural meeting of Southern Region's newly formed Regional Project Branch (RPB). The creation of the branch followed 12 months of planning by the Regional Council and forms part of the region's 80th Birthday celebrations. Thirteen people attended the week-end, with a further 14 expressing an interest. There was a wide age range and a very warm and friendly atmosphere. John Mitchell and John Biggerstaff added to the success of the event.



The objectives of the branch are:-

To hand the Movement on to another generation by affording an opportunity for young people coming into contact with Toc H through the project scene to maintain an ongoing Toc H experience.

Encourage and develop the branch concept as far as possible.

To bring young people into a network of communication (RPB) which will enable them to maintain an ongoing interest in activities within the region and which is flexible enough to allow them to participate according to their varying circumstances.

Harnessing the experience of older members to the enthusiasm of the young, by members at branch or district level identifying pieces of needy local service which can be referred to and carried out by the RPB to the benefit of the local unit through the favourable publicity this will generate.

Bringing a middle-age range into the Movement by enlisting their support with organisation of the RPB.

Recruiting Builders from friends and relatives of the branch members.

Support from the director

The branch has received considerable encouragement from Mike Lyddiard, who was present at the regional meeting last year when the idea was first floated, and financial support in terms of pump-priming money has been made available from headquarters, although it is hoped the branch will soon become financially independent.

During the week-end, the branch considered feasibility reports on a number of projects from the Job Master team. These projects had been identified by branches when the members of the Job master team visited various parts of the region. Because of the strong emphasis on projects, it was felt from the conception of the RPB that, although the traditional term 'Job Master' was appropriate to this unit, it would be necessary for more than one person to handle the role. Therefore a team of four mature members was recruited, involving another age group.

Although the region is pleased with the initial success of the RPB, particularly the way in which the generation gap has been bridged and warm friendships have been created, they are aware that the first year of the branch's existence will be an evolutionary period when all members will need to participate in the process of deciding which type of projects are the most appropriate. The 1995 programme so far consists of four projects, one of which has already been agreed, which will take place in September, i.e. a narrow boat adventure for underprivileged children from the Newbury area.

The region are optimistic that this venture, which is to be reviewed annually, will be successful. This will be as a result of a regional commitment to ensure that all the offices of the new branch are filled annually by mature members from the Movement or, if necessary, head-hunted from outside, until such time as this process is no longer required.

John Stevens

Branch News

Welcome to 20 New Members in July:

Mary Hynes - Cheadle Hulme;
Lucy Cole - Central;
Shelagh Robbie, Irene Todd, Sheila Taylor - Coupar Angus
Laurence Cleat, Ronald Gibbs - Duns;
Isabel Pittam - Garforth;
John Smith - Long Eaton;
Derek Cox - Newark Street;
Doreen Stevens - S. Regional Projects Branch;
Ivy Blundell - Southport;
Heidi Cottam - Somerset District;
Wim Marchand, Rita Struye - Tubby's Poperinge;
Nicola Blair, Anthony Garraway, Andrew McGough,
Helen Osborne - Tyne & Wear;
Leslie Lumb - Wolds.



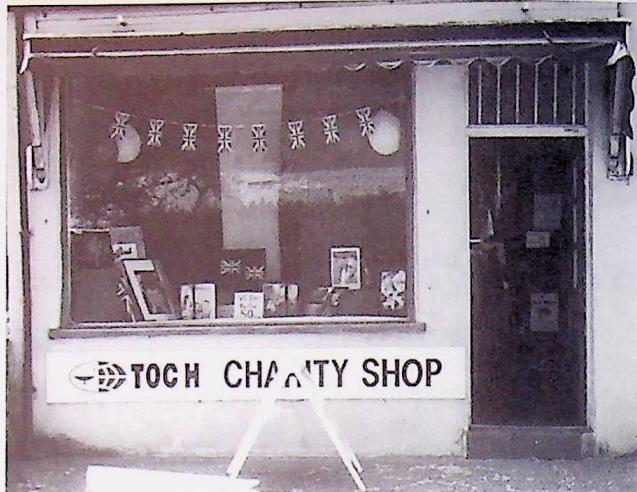
Pat and Jack Turner celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary with a cruise aboard the Canberra in May and arranged with Captain Rory Smith for the Toc H Share the Peace Service incorporated in a Thanksgiving Service held on board on 8 May at 7.30 am.



The Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton, overlooking the sea, proved to be the perfect venue for the South West Region's 80th birthday celebrations. Regional Chairman Daphne Dawes welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Torbay before introducing Mike Lyddiard, whose address inspired us all. Thanks must go to all the members of the organising committee and especially Alan and Betty Hawkins.

Great Birthday Cake Appeal

Margaret Winstanley, PA to Mike Lyddiard, would like to remind members to support her suggestion that every branch holds a cake stall or has a tea party to raise funds for Toc H and celebrate our 80th birthday at the same time. If every branch could raise £100 in this manner it would mean £30,000 towards our Methods. Headquarters staff are holding their own cake stall in July as their contribution towards the scheme.



The Toc H Charity Shop at Wendover, specially decorated to celebrate VE Day.



Mary Edwards presented Colin Stevenson with his long service award at a Broadway Branch meeting. Members and friends can be seen with Mary and Colin seated in the centre.



The Toc H team who took part in the Cleveland Superswim, managing 78 lengths in an hour!



Division One Field Officer, Norah Phipps, took part in the Deerbolt YO! service on 7 May, which was dedicated to Share the Peace. During the service a Prayer Wall for Peace was built. This will be left in place and the candles lit every week for Peace.



Development Officer, Jennifer Carlon, helped Ann Hughes organise a Street Party for VE Day. About 140 adults and children joined in the celebrations which raised £119 for Winsford Branch funds.



Southampton District celebrated VE Day in Kingsworthy with a party for the village which was a great success. They decorated the hall with hundreds of Toc H balloons.



Members of Wyre Forest Branch mounted an exhibition with the theme of Reconciliation, in St Anne's Church, Bewdley. The exhibition was on display for a week and some hundreds of visitors signed the visitors book. Other societies linked to the event were Corrymeela, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Amnesty International, Commission for Racial Equality, Society of Friends and Coventry Cathedral.



The conference room at Wendover now proudly boasts a superb crocheted motto, the gift of former Toc H member Helen Hodgkinson. Helen writes: I still have Point three sent to me each month and like to keep in touch.



Plympton Womens' Branch celebrated our 80th birthday by planting shrubs at Pocklington Rise residential home for the blind.

Over 800 *Share the Peace* packs were requested for peace vigils to commemorate the end of World War II in Europe. As a result of Toc H's initiative many people have given a very special thought to peace. We will be repeating *Share the Peace* on 15 August, the day which officially marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the War with Japan. Please help us to publicise *Share the Peace* this second time around so that we get even more people involved. For leaflets and more information contact Mike Lyddiard.

Establishing 'Good Practise' in Toc H

At Staff Conference in 1994, I introduced the idea of a *Good Practise Guide* and received positive staff comment. Since that time the Divisional Team have promoted the idea in Branches within Division One and received further support.

But what is Good Practise? It is a source of information developed to encourage communication and spread ideas. It will:

- identify members' activities within the movement
- provide information on how some activities were set up
- provide support information on, for example:

Fundraising Publicity and Promotion Training Recruitment and Resources

Members' Activities - The Divisional Team have visited all Division One branches and identified which branches are doing what. The information gathered has been collated into a booklet entitled *Benchmarks*. It enables us to link branches from Coupar Angus to Peterborough. To obtain a copy, please contact me on 01709 860053 (cost £5.00, cheques payable to Toc H please).

Our branch visits have done much to encourage both communication between branches and enthusiasm across the Division. This has had the benefit of enabling branches to help each other and the 'family' to become remotivated. Opportunities for Library Projects to swap books, and Cleveland Thrift Shop to receive clothing and financial support, are but two instances.

Good Practise Write-Ups - *Benchmarks* enables us to link, but I want us to do more. Following the *Recruiting Blood Donors* presentation at the 1994 Central Council, I met with the Walsall Branch, and, with their permission, wrote up their experience and what they had learned from it, in two sections.

The first, *Recruiting Blood Donors - Activity Report*, was an account of their action and covered:

Purpose	- how was the need identified
Presentation	- choosing the activity
Planning	- defining the activity
Publicity	- telling the community
Practical	- process - how did they do it
Problems	- pitfalls/solutions
Post events	- measurement of success, lessons learned

The second *Good Practise - Recruiting Blood Donors*, examined how they might have improved the activity.

Further activities which could be written up include the Ashby de la Zouch Branch borrowing a High Street shop front and making £600 in two days, the Anstey Branch organising its 70 volunteer drivers and providing a day trip and party for some 280 local pensioners, Bramley Branch operating its Domino League in six Sheltered Accommodation Units, the Denny Branch setting up its Handicapped Club.... We must also look at CAMEOs and Friendship Circles, where there is also much to learn and experience to be gathered and shared.

Publicity and Promotion - We need to show some branches how to get their activities on/in to the local Press/Radio. Stuart Wroe (Divisional PR and Appeals Officer) helped the Northern Ireland Project arrange a peak time radio interview and helped Horbury secure a Community Service Announcement on Yorkshire TV. More recently, to enhance the Recruitment Package, Stuart Wroe and I produced an outline of a Press Release and a Feature Article, both of which can be used for local papers.

But beyond good practise there are two issues we need to consider urgently:

Taking stock - Individual branches need to take stock of their activities and to question whether they are all still appropriate in 1995. *Benchmarks* not only identifies some inappropriate activities, but it can also be used as a tool to assist/identify new work and to provide the opportunity to learn from others in the family. 'Why reinvent the wheel when someone else has already done it'.

Promoting Internally - Some branches need to look at the meaning of 'family'. Frequently Toc H branches are raising and giving away money to other charities. Have we become so poor at promoting ourselves internally that outside bodies receive Toc H funds before our own work receives support? Good Practise must also be about promoting ourselves/our work inside Toc H.

How To Obtain More Information

Good Practice - Tom Elliott and I have copies of the file and will ensure that the contents are widely known, so that groups and/or individuals can request information. This will keep costs to a minimum and encourage communication. Within Division One we shall use *Division One Matters* to advise branches and staff of the material available. I also hope to distribute information through *Branch Mailing* and *Point three*.

The *Good Practise Guide* is not intended to tell members how something should be done, but to present ideas based on experience and to enable linking within the family.

Barry Englefield ■

Ferry Challenge '95

The members of our group, Wellingborough Young-Ones, had a brainstorming session to come up with some way in which our small group could try and help turn the tide of Toc H fortunes. We came up with the idea of *The Toc H Ferry Challenge '95*.

From the embryo idea of getting sponsorship for one of our members to set some kind of record in crossing the English Channel, the idea has become a major publicity event for Toc H. To attract the media as well as sponsors, that unlucky person will be travelling from Southampton to Hull, crossing the Channel and North Sea 16 different ways, and doing it in a week! We are contacting 29 local newspapers, seven local radio stations and five television companies. The event has now grown so much that to make sure there are no slip-ups in the timetable, and to link with local Branches and other sympathetic organisations, two projects have been set up to support the *Challenge* in ports on both sides of the water. These projects are being led by Sally Simms and Karen Waples.

The journey starts from Southampton on 5 September and goes about 2000 miles off the 'sensible route' to visit Poole, Portsmouth, Newhaven, Folkestone, Harwich and Felixstowe, before arriving in Hull on 12 September. Continental ports being visited are St Malo, Cherbourg, Caen, Le Havre, Dieppe, Boulogne, Calais, Ostende, Zeebrugge and Hook of Holland.

A new member has joined the group to help with organising *The Challenge* and the Division One team are being enormously helpful, but we still need some special people....

Those who live near the places mentioned, who know of events that would like extra publicity from *The Challenge*. Those who have contacts with companies which would sponsor *The Challenge* and those who will take sponsor forms round to their friends.

Those who know Toc H and will volunteer for the support project (No.60 in the Project Booklet), or lead with Karen and Sally.

If there is any way in which you would like to help, or you could use leaflets or sponsor forms, please contact us at 142 Jubilee Crescent, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2PG Tel: 01933 227704
By the way, I'm the unlucky person doing the crossings !

Jim Simpson

Tributes

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In March	Sylvia Thornber	Brandon
In April	Leonard Firth	Newsome
	Derek Gear	Wessex District
	Charles Greenslade	Honiton
	Rhoda Griffiths	London District
	Emma Ware	Tonbridge
	Catharine Wood	Coupar Angus
In May	John Gilbert	Gloucester
	Michael Meade	Late Godalming
Not previously recorded	Kathleen Anderson	Bramley
	John Bennett	Lindley
	Mollie Butt	Loddon Vale
	Archibald Eldridge	District
	Millicent Higgs	Seaford
	Emma Knowles	Kidsgrove
	Florence Lunt	Nailsea
	Louis Millward	Nailsea
	Nellie Smith	Llandrindod
	Herbert Pittock	Wells
		Harpden
		Seaford

Louis Millward, a founder member of the Llandrindod Wells Toc H Branch in 1932 and a true friend and stalwart member until his death on Christmas Day 1994. He was a kind and caring person and anyone who knew him will feel enriched. He greatly appreciated the scenic values of Radnorshire and was a sensitive and artistic man. At the time of his death his friends had recently received his own individual Christmas cards, sketched from above the church and lovely valley of the little River Ithon. Farewell dear Louis. NT

Rhoda Griffiths died in April in her 83rd year. She married Ken in November 1933. Following Ken's association with Toc H in Leicester, Rhoda became an active member of the Toc H Women's Branch in 1946 and was a member of the CEC until the men's and women's branches amalgamated. She then became Chairman of the Toc H Marks Committee and a much loved friend of Prideaux House. Rhoda died in the love of God and of her family and will be much missed.

It is with great regret that St Annes on Sea Branch report the sudden death of their longest serving member, **Jack Todd**, on 17 May at the age of 79. Jack was a loyal member of Toc H for over 50 years and still Pilot of the branch at the time of his death. Jack's loyalty and service to Toc H were truly his rent paid for his room on earth. We give thanks for his life.

Brid' Kids Country Holiday Project

13-19 August 1995

Bridlington Toc H Action Group are taking 16 children aged 8-11 years for week's holiday in the Yorkshire Dales countryside, staying at a Pine Lodge at Ingleton. The project will be great fun, but quite challenging.

Volunteers are needed for this project which does not appear in the Projects Booklet. Police vetting and child protection forms must be completed.

For further details please contact:
Suzanne Dunwell, Project Co-ordinator,
31 Otterbeck Way, Aiskew, Bedale,
North Yorks. Tel: 01677 425152

V J DAY - 15 AUGUST

"I wish to pay high tribute to the task of reconciliation being undertaken by TOC H, particularly in this special year. May the theme of peace and reconciliation prevail throughout the world this year for the sake of past and future generations."

Mr Fujii, Japanese Ambassador

In addition to hundreds of Share the Peace vigils across the country, there will be a special event at All Hallows Church from 11.30am - 12.30pm. This will be followed by the unveiling of a plaque to Tubby Clayton on number 43 Trinity Square.

Tickets available from Sue Pells at Toc H Headquarters. Please apply by 31 July.

Colsterdale Toc H
present

Thorne & District Male Voice Choir

in Concert

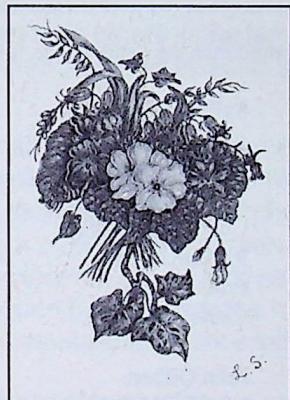
Masham Town Hall, Ripon, N Yorks -
Saturday 15 July at 7.30pm
Admission £3.00 (including refreshments)

The Masham Steam Fair takes place on
the 15th - why not make a day of it!

CARDLETS



L.S.



Pack of eight 'cardlets' (2 of each design) - overprinted on reverse with Toc H logo.

Cost £1.50 per packet (including p&p).

Available from: Daphne Dawes, 338 Bath Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1Q

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to Point three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Falmouth Toc H Holiday House

Accommodation for 5 plus cot.

Open June to September

Enquiries Ron Galiss - Tel: 01326 312699